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Sizing up the right since 1911

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SSMU vp external resigns

Council cover-ups leave students in the dark

BY ZACHARY SCHWARTZ
AND ROBIN PERELLE

Citing personal reasons, Nick Benedict, vp external, resigned on November 15, leaving a vacant seat on the five member Students' Society executive.

Although Benedict maintained that his reasons for resigning were personal, Students' Society President Helena Myers announced to Council the following day that her vp external resigned in response to allegations made in an article withheld from publication in the *Tribune*.

The unpublished article alleged that Benedict had been selling marijuana to students.

When asked at Council about the contents of the mysterious article, Myers replied only, "There were allegations made in this article. These allegations were relayed to me in confidence... and because of these allegations, there was a motion considered by the executive committee... in order to force Mr. Benedict to respond to these allegations."

"Mr. Benedict has chosen to respond to these allegations by resigning," she added.

The Students' Society president refused to specify the nature of these allegations, despite the fact that, according to anonymous sources on Council, the executive had secretly initiated steps to impeach Benedict for inappropriate behavior only a day earlier.

The four remaining executives submitted a letter to Council accepting Benedict's resignation and thanking him for "the good work [he had] done for the SSMU in the past year and a half."

The letter made no mention of any inappropriate behaviour.

Myers would only tell councilors that, "as of this moment, Mr. Benedict is no longer on the executive. Therefore [by pursuing the allegations], we would be bringing an individual student's private affairs public."

When asked to confirm that an impeachment procedure had been launched to remove the vp external just prior to his resignation, VP Finance Kelly Remail answered, "I have no comment at this time."

Myers admitted that the executive had formulated a motion but stated that its intent was to "force Mr. Benedict to respond to these allegations," not to impeach him.

But anonymous sources on Council confirmed that a secret impeachment procedure had been initiated and would have been completed in a closed session of Council had it not been pre-empted by Benedict's resignation.

Said one of the anonymous councilors, "Doing an impeachment motion was seen as the quickest way... to get rid of [the allegations]. They just wanted to push it under the carpet in the quickest way possible. But since he resigned, that solved their problem; they didn't have to impeach him."

The councilor explained that the cover-up surrounding the impeachment proceedings was deliberate. "They don't want any attention brought to this matter... because they are friends with Nick [and] because they don't want the Council's name dragged through the mud."

The secrecy surrounding these proceedings has frustrated some



SMILING BEFORE THE FALL

councilors and students who feel that they have been deliberately kept in the dark.

Steven Erdelyi, Senate/Board of Governors representative to the Student's Society, said, "I don't think the way certain SSMU councilors handled the situation preceding the Nick Benedict resignation was right. I understand that they had difficult decisions to make, and I'm not sure what I would have done in their situation. But I don't agree with what went on. I have lost respect for some SSMU councilors over this issue."

When asked if a motion to impeach had been created, Erdelyi replied, "I can't answer that question at this time."

Covering up financial mismanagement too

Not only did the SSMU executive cover up the former vp external's alleged ties to drugs and its subsequent move to impeach him, but it also kept Council in the dark about his financial irresponsibility.

Despite a budget increase from \$4 835 in 1993/94 to \$13 324 in 1994/95, Benedict's first year in office, External Affairs was one of the few Council services to go over budget last year.

According to VP Finance Remail, Benedict ignored protocol and went over budget by "fail[ing] in all shapes and forms to follow the proper authorisation procedures." He continued, "The overwhelming majority of his expenses were not authorised."

"There were monies being spent

without approval. I didn't think that was very appropriate at all... I was very disappointed that that was happening," Remail continued.

Benedict maintained that he didn't come forward because he did not think he had made any serious errors.

He also pointed out that the budgetary category which includes the budgets of the vp finance and the president, as well as all executive salaries, was well over-budget. "It's not anybody's fault. I'm sure they were just honest mistakes," he said.

But as a result of last year's unauthorised spending for External Affairs, then-VP Finance Paul Johnson found it necessary to freeze Benedict's accounts, blocking all further expenditures.

"He was stopped in his tracks," Remail confirmed. Benedict's account was unfrozen in May.

"I have been keeping a very, very close eye on which expenses were authorised and which were not," Remail added.

When asked why he still hasn't told councilors or students about this situation, Remail said, "It's a day-to-day operation, and [we] could have a discussion as to whether it's an important enough matter for Council to know about. I don't think it is. I think it's part of the internal operations, part of the day-to-day things."

Remail admitted that the Financial Committee had been notified of Benedict's behavior, but Remail maintained that it was not worth Council's time.

"In order for me to go to Council and take 10 to 15 minutes of Council's time I would have to believe that... an individual is seriously impeding the financial performance of the [Students'] Society," he continued.

But Services Representative Chris Carter, who is also a member of the Financial Committee, challenged Remail's position that making this information public was not worth Council's time.

According to Carter, any extreme action — like freezing someone's budget — is definitely worth Council's time to keep elected officials informed and accountable.

According to Article 9, Section 7 of the SSMU constitution, "In the event of resignation or removal of any Vice President of the Society, Council shall elect a replacement from amongst its members."

At the next Council meeting on November 30, Council will hold a nomination period followed by a secret ballot vote to elect Benedict's successor. Only current councilors are eligible for the position.

All students are invited to attend as members of the gallery.

TIME TO CHANGE TO SSMU STRUCTURE?

BY PAUL DEEP

Services Rep. pushes for more representation

At the November 2 Students' Society (SSMU) Council meeting, Services Representative Chris Carter proposed that the student-run services be allowed to elect one representative each to Council, providing a stronger voice for some marginalised groups.

Presently, SSMU Services include the Walksafe Network, Black Students' Network, the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Students' Society, and McGill Nightline. Their purpose is to offer basic resources to large numbers of students.

As SSMU's sole services representative on Council, Carter feels that his opinions alone cannot adequately reflect the position of each group. That is why he formulated a plan to restructure representation on Council.

His motion draws its strength from the SSMU Constitution, which states that the purpose of the Students' Society is

to provide activities and services which "shall enhance the educational, cultural, environmental, political and social conditions of its members."

As Carter argued, "the Students' Society Council, following [restructuring] would resemble more closely the intention of the SSMU Constitution, and provide better, more accurate representation."

Carter is lobbying for the creation of up to eight new Council positions, increasing the Council size from 31 to 39 seats.

"We really don't have representation on Council that speaks about service issues," Carter explained. "No direct representation. No guarantees that you'd have anyone knowledgeable about these issues. This [issue] is absolutely vital."

According to Carter, services perform an important function within the

university and so should be better represented. "Services are very distinctive. They're used by thousands of students. [Their volunteers] are very aware of issues and effective policies [that deal] with students."

SSMU President Helena Myers said that Carter's proposal has been presented to the Presidential Portfolio Committee of Council (PCOC), the body in charge of reviewing and suggesting policy changes. Following review by the Presidential PCOC, recommendations will be made at the SSMU meeting on November 30.

Myers declined to comment on her position regarding the proposed amendments before the meeting. However, she did tell the *McGill Tribune* two weeks ago that she is opposed to an increase in the number of councilors.

"I don't want it any bigger that it is right now," she said, suggesting that a

larger Council means a more inefficient Council. "We can argue about eliminating some councilors and adding more, but I don't want to see more than 30 councilors."

The current structure of SSMU is based on faculty representation, with larger faculties like Arts receiving more representatives. The break-down of seats is as follows: 17 faculty reps, one residence rep, three club reps, three student reps from Senate/Board of Governors, one Athletics rep, one hired bureaucrat, and five executives.

Myers also expressed concern about over-representation in her talk with the *Tribune*. "It makes sense that there is one representative for every 2-000 students in each faculty, but once you add reps for other groups of students, you achieve double, triple, or even

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CHANGES TO SSMU STRUCTURE?

quadruple representation for each student."

But Carter insists that many students may be better represented by services than by their faculties. "I personally think that [Myers' over-

representation] argument is null and void and misplaced," he stated. "Council is presently completely academic. When it comes to safety and sexual harassment, we don't have a Council that can deal with that effectively."

Changes Overdue

Many students agree that changes to the SSMU are overdue. Progressive restructuring of student unions to better represent marginalised groups has already occurred at other Canadian universities.

The Trent Student Union now includes one representative each for women, Aboriginal issues, international students, and the environment.

In 1991, the York Federation of

Students merged the Finance and Programs Council positions to make room for a new position with the title of VP Equality.

And the Guelph Central Students'

"We wanted fairer representation on the Senate," Prince asserted. "We felt then that increasing the size [of Senate] was worth it."

Prince recalled using the exact same arguments to push for change that Carter is now using. He also recalled encountering similar opposing arguments in Senate, which stressed efficiency over improved representation.

"It strikes me as ironic that Myers is using the exact same

argument to oppose fair representation on Council, that we were forced to eat in Senate three years ago," said Prince.

In the end, Prince's efforts yielded "limited success" in the form of one additional student position on Senate.

Carter hopes that his proposals will be more successful. And while the process to effect change may be long and complicated, he maintains a simple view of the entire debate.

"Quality of representation is what it's about."

"Council is presently completely academic. When it comes to safety and sexual harassment, we don't have a Council that can deal with that effectively"

— Chris Carter, Services Rep. to SSMU Council

Association recently added special seats for the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) and the Guelph Campus Co-op.

This is not the first time that McGill students have demanded better representation on a campus decision-making body.

In 1992, then-SSMU President Jason Prince assisted in a Council-Initiated campaign to increase the student voice on the University Senate, the highest authority on academic issues.

EVENTS

Wednesday, November 22

- Jewish Women's Circle presents Edeet Ravel on MIDRASH: Alternative Voices at Hillel House, 3466 Stanley, 19h.
- University Affairs Portfolio Committee of Council (PCOC) meeting, 18h30, in SSMU executive

lounge. Everyone welcome.

- Bereavement support group for people who have lost family member or friend. Offered free by McGill School of Social Work. Info: Estelle Hopmeyer, 398-7067.
- Quality of Student Life Committee meeting. Help prepare a survey to find

out what students define as important issues on campus. Everyone welcome. Shatner B-10, 19h. Suggestion box at SSMU info desk (Shatner lobby).

- Interested in a legal career? Practitioners speak of their experiences, Moot Court, 3644 Peel, 12h30.

Thursday, November 23

- WUSC meeting, discussion on Peru. Burnside Hall, Rm 426, 18h.
- Jewish Students' Association hosts Jeopardy-style trivia game, featuring Departmental profs as contestants. Union Bldg, Rm108, 17h. Info: Daniel, 738-4198.
- Department of English hosts Frederick Marx, director of *Hoop Dreams*. 19h30, Lea 232.

Friday, November 24

- McGill Choral Society presents Rutter's Requiem at Erskine and American United Church (du Musée and Sherbrooke), 19h30. Tickets: Steve's Music Store and Maximusique. Info: 398-6814.

Ongoing

- MONTAGE, McGill Dept. of English Students' Journal now welcoming submissions of poetry, short fiction, essays, photography, and art from McGill students. Place submissions in the DESA box in the Porter's office, Arts Bldg by Dec. 15. Include name and phone number on separate paper. All submissions considered for the Literary Festival.
- Scrivener creative review (annual compilation of Canadian literary and visual art) welcomes submissions of fiction, poetry, art, and photography. Deadline Jan. 20. Place submissions in the Porter's office, Arts Bldg or mail 853 Sherbrooke St. W, H3A 2T6.
- Loaf Organic Food Co-op orders produce and bulk dried goods on Mondays, 11h30-17h30, at the QPIRG office, 3647 University. Info: Rebecca French or Melanie Fearon, 398-7432.

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EDITORIAL

The Right way out

Last week, the *Daily* breathed a sigh of relief as the Students' Society's Judicial Board overturned the Chief Returning Officers' ruling on the October 23-25 SSMU referendum question pertaining to the funding of the *Daily*. The CRO had ruled the vote a win for the Yes side to repeal the *Daily's* student levy.

The question asked students whether SSMU should lobby McGill's Board of Directors, until successful, to remove the \$6.70 levy taken in addition to the tuition of all undergraduate students.

Although SSMU announced an official victory for the Yes vote, the *Daily* appealed on the grounds that the Yes side did not receive the simple majority required by the SSMU constitution for a win. After a hearing last week, SSMU's Judicial Board agreed unanimously with the *Daily's* argument.

The Judicial Board's decision represents a victory for the only autonomous and French press on this campus.

But the threat faced by the *Daily* during the SSMU referendum was about more than just whether the *Daily* would be able to continue publishing a newspaper three times a week.

Although Yes committee leader Ian Hay claimed the motivation to repeal *Daily* funding was a concern for accountability and fiscal responsibility, the debate tapped into something deeper than SSMU seemed to realise.

It was also a threat to the McGill community, which is founded on dialogue and interaction between students and campus organisations, including clubs and services.

The *Daily* is just one venue for

campus community dialogue. McGill's Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) and the campus community radio station, CKUT, are other venues.

A threat to one such group, however, is a threat to all, because it calls into question the value we place on the importance of such groups. One has to wonder if the *Daily* can be dismissed so easily, what will come next?

Although the *Daily* is off the SSMU hook, the impetus to roll-back what is considered worthwhile in a community remains. And it is not confined to McGill.

Student groups — particularly critical or alternative groups — on university campuses across Montréal and the country are being confronted with efforts to cut their funding.

In each case, Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs), radio stations and newspapers seem to be on the top of the hit list.

Last year, the student council at Université de Montréal unilaterally decided to cut the student levy that partially funded the campus' QPIRG.

Last week, Université du Québec à Montréal's (UQAM) student union nearly terminated its role as partial sponsor of the university's QPIRG.

Also last week, the York Ontario PIRG faced a referendum question to suspend its student-levied funding. In the end, the York PIRG won the referendum.

The attack on PIRGs is not confined to Canadian university campuses. In the U.S., where campus PIRGs are more organised than in Canada, the College Republican National Committee has formed a "PIRG-Free Zone Project," to provide strategies for defeating PIRGs at a campus and state level. One letter

to members said "these groups are organisations who under the guise of 'public interest' use student money to promote a political agenda that is usually on the left side of the political spectrum. They lobby on gay rights, for a nuclear freeze, against draft registration and are anti 'big business.'"

Given such a statement and considering the fact that PIRGs do valuable work and usually have opt-out agreements, it is difficult to believe that accountability is the motive behind the attack on PIRGs.

Alison Dudley, chapter coordinator of QPIRG McGill, suggests the decision to rescind student funding from the Université de Montréal's QPIRG was politically motivated because the student council was opposed to the group's anti-NAFTA stance.

Radio stations have also been placed under student society target for focusing on community and "leftist" political issues. According to Angelina Vaz, spoken-word coordinator at CKUT and former volunteer at University of Western Ontario's CHRW, the Western station was only able to maintain its existence by catering to the conservative views of that campus.

Vaz also points to Ryerson University's CKLN, which has faced ongoing referenda initiated by conservative students who want to cut the station's student-levied funding.

Like the *Daily*, other student papers continue to face challenges to their autonomy and ability to function, an ability which hinges on student funding.

Earlier this year, York University's largest campus paper, the *Excalibur*, almost faced a referendum question to repeal its student levy.

Last January, after years of student council driven challenges to their politics, University of British Columbia's paper, the *Ubysses*, broke free of student council control and became autonomous, funded by a \$5 per-year student levy.

Siobhan Roantree, coordinating editor of the *Ubysses*, remembers the arguments made against the paper by those who thought it was not worth funding. "We were inaccessible, the cliques have taken over, [there were] financial and editorial irresponsibilities and a lack of accountability to students."

In fact, the most striking similarity in all of the cases of student council driven challenges to PIRGs, radio stations and newspapers is the talk of "accountability."

Vaz comments: "Students need to engage in a far broader and meaningful discussion of what accountability might mean.... At the university level, student councils can spew out 'accountability' without explaining what it means."

She also points to the need to evaluate what it means to be a student, and as a result, what student interests are. Like Dudley, Vaz echoes the idea that student interests need to be recognised as extending beyond the campus confines.

As discussions of what it means to be a community are extended beyond the confines of campus, it becomes clear that the debates being staged on university campuses about whether students should have to fund alternative and activist organisations echo the debates being held in provinces like Ontario and Alberta.

These days, it seems that student politicians have more in common with

Mike Harris, Ralph Klein and Preston Manning than they would like to admit.

The rhetoric of accountability, tax reductions, cost effectiveness and representation is being used by conservative politicians and organisations across the country. Ultimately, this rhetoric is used to rationalise the closing of hospitals, women's shelters, community centres and lobby groups to name a few.

It is also used to rationalise the withdrawal of student funds to student community groups.

It is important to recognise the connections between the act of redefining a campus community by deciding who is funded and who is not and the process of deciding what society at large should look like.

As Vaz suggests, it is time to make the right wing defend what they mean when they say organisations are not accountable, accessible or representative.

What should fulfilling these requirements look like?

If it should mean critically evaluating the environment which we live and work in; if it should mean engaging in dialogue and in projects which seek to make improvement in the environment we live in — not only for the students represented by student council but for all students; and if it should mean inviting all members of the community to challenge the status quo, then the groups being targeted cannot be argued to be anything but accountable and responsible.

What is clear, however, is that accountable and responsible voices are not what this country's governments — and the conservative forces they're riding on — want to hear.

THE STAFF OF THE MCGILL DAILY

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LETTERS

Making McGill TO THE DAILY,

I was glad to see your continued coverage of student contributions to McGill's planning process ("Towards making a new McGill," Nov. 16, 1995). However, to give credit where credit is due, I would like to note that "Making McGill" is not only my contribution; rather it is the product of the work of a nine-member SSMU Think Tank, and the students with whom we consulted. I encourage everyone to pick up a copy of "Making McGill" from SSMU, and to continue thinking and speaking about the issues involved.

Thanks!

LISA GRUSHCOW, VP UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS, SSMU

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FINANCIAL FRIENDS

A selection of McGill's holdings as of August, 1995:

Eastman-Kodak: According to the EPA, Eastman-Kodak is New York's largest industrial polluter whose past actions include failing to report groundwater contamination.

General Electric: GE was once charged by United Electrical Workers with retaliating against workers trying to organise at a GE plant in Mexico. The company pleaded guilty to and paid fines for money laundering in 1992.

General Motors: In 1994, a judge said there was "substantial likelihood" that the car maker had participated in "perjury and the systematic destruction of documents" relating to automobiles with side-mounted gas tanks. The company also won an award in Dec. 1994 for "the most misleading, unfair and irresponsible ad campaigns of 1994."

McDonnell Douglas and Lockheed Martin: These two companies dominate U.S. defense contracts.

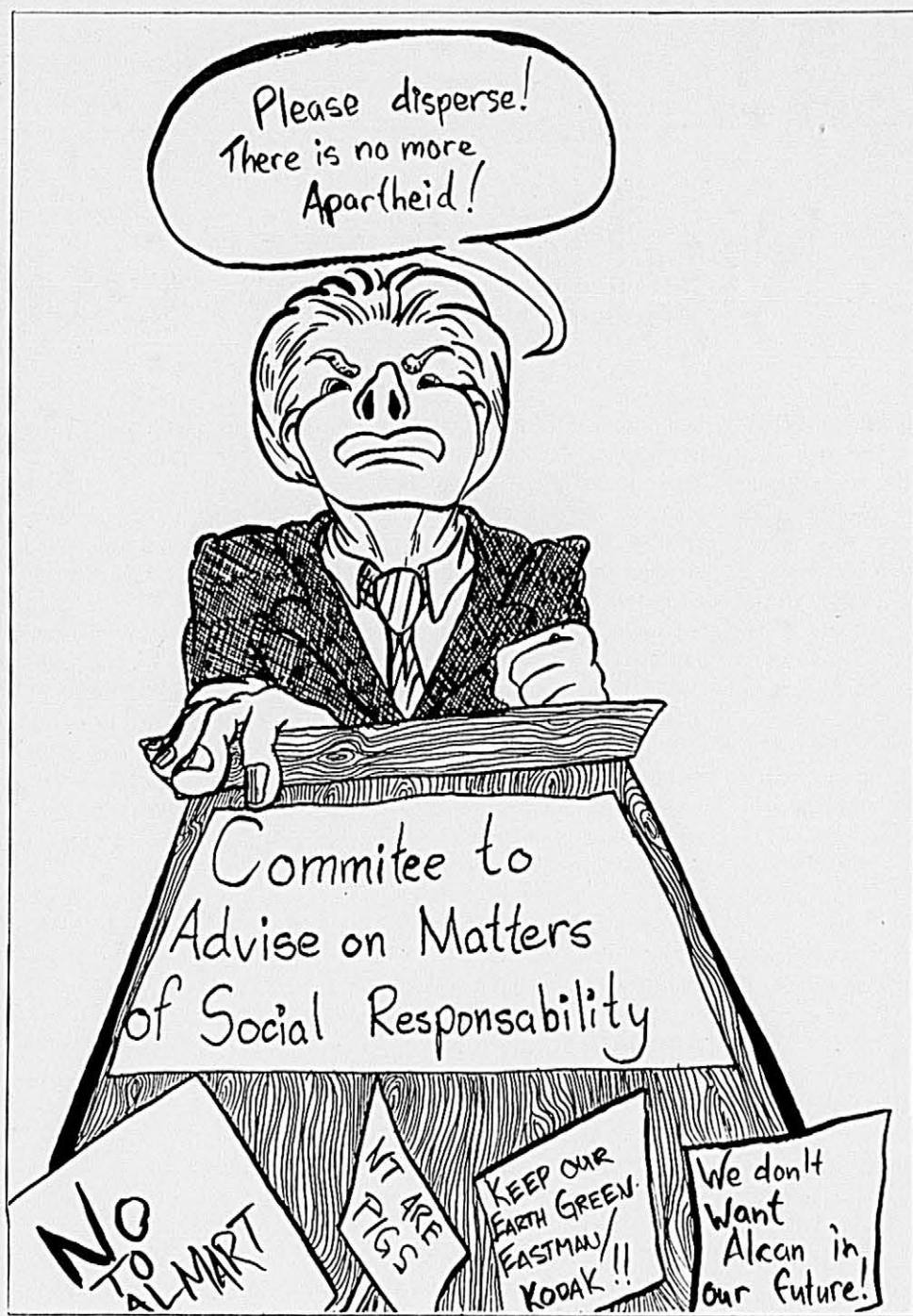
Motorola: Motorola has dumped industrial solvents, including a possible carcinogen, into the ground around one of its U.S. plants for over 30 years.

PepsiCo: The beverage company's ventures in China and Burma have helped both of these country's government persistent repression of their people. [McGill had only short-term investments in PepsiCo, which have been sold since August.]

Philip Morris: This tobacco producer may spend up to one quarter of its expenditures in China.

Wal-Mart Stores: Besides disrupting many a small town and a history of poor labour relations, the origins of Wal-Mart's products remain questionable.

- Sources include *The Wall Street Journal*



BY JACQUELINE REIS

When apartheid was at its height in 1986, the McGill Board of Governors bowed to overwhelming student and faculty sentiment against the South African regime and divested some of its investments in that country.

As the first Canadian university to do so, McGill seemed to be taking the lead in using social responsibility as a guideline for investment.

Today, as McGill students and administrators struggle to survive in a shrinking university within a shrinking economy, activism around issues of social responsibility seems to have disappeared altogether.

McGill holds stocks in numerous corporations who do business with governments whose practices are equally questionable. All of this is possible because elements of social responsibility do not enter into the investment process at any point.

It seems that McGill has not investigated the way in which companies it invests in profit from the repressive practices of governments such as those of China, Indonesia and Nigeria.

That was then

McGill's Board of Governors created the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility in the mid-80s when students and faculty raised the question of McGill's investments in South Africa.

"It started off with a student petition with over 4 000 names on it - You don't do these things over night," said Stuart Budden, McGill's treasurer, of the university's partial divestment from South Africa.

"The students, then, and various interest groups, got it to the Board [of Governors] and the Board said, 'Fine, here's a way we'll do it: We'll create a committee with this mandate. They're

to look at every company and make the recommendation,'" Budden continued. "It wasn't a question of the moral issue being decided by the Investment Committee. That issue [ethics] was being decided by the committee on social responsibility."

The Board dissolved the committee last year because the only issue it was ever asked to pursue seriously - to get McGill out of South Africa - had expired.

Jim McVety, senior auditor in the Internal Audit Department, was a member of the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility from its inception to its dissolution.

"I acquiesced to the decision [to

time, activists in China have been asking the international community to hold the government accountable for its actions through economic and diplomatic influence. However, the temptation to invest in this giant market has led both governments and corporations to ignore this call.

"I don't think any of the problems are less horrific," said Budden, comparing today's world to that of the 1980s.

"When the South Africa issue was a hot issue, every second proxy voter annual vote would have an issue of social responsibility, one way or another. That has dropped considerably. I don't think I saw more than three in the last year or

As McGill students and administrators struggle to survive in a shrinking university within a shrinking economy, activism around issues of social responsibility seems to have disappeared altogether

dissolve CAMSR)," said McVety, who noted that the committee perhaps "could have been reinvigorated [and] changed over the years."

The decision to dissolve the committee does not reflect the fact that some issues surrounding apartheid have yet to be resolved and that issues of social responsibility continue to be relevant to today's world.

Why not now?

As of August, McGill's holdings include

so...

"It used to be people would buy two shares just to get it put on the agenda at an annual meeting," said Budden.

Laurie Lawson, senior treasury officer, added, "In the case of South Africa, where there were big companies doing lots of business and very much in the global eye, and very wealthy multinationals, it was easy to say there is something you can do, whereas in China, the markets aren't open.

"It's hard to invest unless one is doing direct investment, and I don't

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Eastman Kodak (New York's largest industrial polluter, according to the EPA), McDonnell Douglas and Lockheed Martin (the largest defense contractors in the United States) and several firms active under or with China's government.

The Chinese government was condemned internationally in 1989 for its massacre of peaceful student protesters at Tiananmen Square. Since that

think there is a lot of that; I don't think China [is] letting people in."

Yet China does seem to be "letting people in." A number of McGill's holdings are with companies that have penetrated Chinese markets, including Merrill Lynch, an investment firm who has singlehandedly raised over \$4 billion in investment in China over the past two years. Northern Telecom, another company in which McGill owns stock, is a research and development partner of the Chinese government. Motorola has a contract for over \$100 million with the Beijing municipal government. Other companies involved with both McGill and China include Bombardier, Coca-Cola, ITT, Inco, Johnson & Johnson, PepsiCo, Philip Morris, Power Corp of Canada, Procter & Gamble, Scott Paper and Wal-Mart Stores.

Why are we there?

"The reality is that most university administrators would rather not deal with this [ethical investment]," said David Nitkin, president of EthicScan, a small company in Toronto that advises investors on issues of social responsibility.

Nitkin pointed to lack of obvious targets in today's world.

"Today, [with] the collapse of organised Communism, you have apparently unbridled capitalism triumphant," he continued. "And you have governments like Canada saying... 'We're decoupling human rights from trade practices.' And that, unfortunately, means you've lost the moral influence."

Nitkin added that for countries like China, a long struggle may have to start with small efforts, like recognising where investments are supporting unacceptable practices.

"The South Africa victory was many, many, many years in the making. There are ways you can influence China's work and prison camps. There are a whole range of goods that are coming into North America that are coming from those camps, that are actually run by [Chinese] politicians and run by army officers."

But for many companies, profits made from cheap labour override these ethical considerations.

Although many companies engage in these practices, there are other options available to McGill. Economic considerations need not outweigh those of social responsibility.

According to Budden, socially responsible portfolios are available.

"You will find on any given issue at any time, there is somebody who's going to sprout up and say, 'Really, you should be dealing with us, because we offer you this kind of a portfolio.' There are green tree portfolios, environment portfolios, a number of things."

When asked if McGill used such portfolios, Budden replied, "We haven't

our conscience overseas

investments unchecked by social responsibility

been asked to look at them [by the Board of Governors]... If we're mandated to do something, we'll do it."

In 1993, then Students' Society President Jason Prince went to the Board of Governors with a unanimous mandate from the Students' Society to broaden CAMSR's mandate to divest from companies with poor environmental records.

"The issue went to CAMSR and it was up to the new Council to pursue that initiative. As far as I know, it died," Prince told the *Daily*.

He added that the Board has historically opposed measures that would set a precedent for divestment from environmentally unsound companies.

"The first BOG meeting I sat in on [as an observer] - it was May 1992 - the BOG was asked to adopt the Valdez Principles, a vacuous set of guidelines saying how responsible a corporation is and how concerned it is about the environment. I remember a BOG member standing and stating 'We can't pass the Valdez principles, because then students will be clambering to get us to divest from companies that pollute. It

will never end."

But Budden insisted that the door is still open to student protest: "There is nothing changed from the procedures that took place that evolved the committee on social responsibility," he stated.

No mobilisation

And yet students do not seem to realise the opportunity is there.

"My guess is that if these issues have fallen by the wayside, it's because students have not pushed on those issues, and others have decided to leave them," Lisa Grushcow, Students' Society vp university affairs, told the *Daily*.

"It's always possible for an issue like that [South Africa] to be raised again," said McVety.

"There's nothing quite as inflammatory at the moment. The students are not as active," he added.

Speaking of the Board of Governors, McVety stated "They feel that there's not a burning issue of social responsibility

at the moment...

"It's just that they don't see anything as blatant as the situation in South Africa."

The recent execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other activists by Nigeria's military government was blatant enough for Budden to take notice.

Saro-Wiwa, a writer and member of the Movement for the Survival of the

"I don't think any of the problems are less horrific."

—Stuart Budden, McGill's treasurer

Ogoni People, was vocally critical of the exploitation of oil resources by multinationals in the Ogoni region. Shell Canada, a company in which McGill has holdings, has ties to Shell Petroleum Development Co. of Nigeria, one of the companies involved in Nigeria.

"Does it concern me personally that a company, and I don't want to zero in on one, that a company would be directly involved in supporting a regime that would do what they just did? You're damn right it does."

Lawson noted that McGill's holdings in Shell Canada total \$200 000.

"I bet Shell can't wait to get out of there," Lawson added.

But according to Jan Rowley, public affairs manager at Shell Canada, the company is in no rush to pull out.

Rowley said that there had been calls about Shell's operations, but that she could not speak to whether the company was under increased pressure.

"I'm sure that if it became enough of a concern, as I say, to McGill, we'd go through the whole process again," said Budden.

"It's a tiny, tiny percentage of [McGill's] overall portfolio," Lawson added. "If it were suddenly gone from the portfolio and replaced with something else, it would be not a huge loss."

Alternative outlets for activism

"We've been missing a golden opportunity in terms of procurement," said David Nitkin. He stressed the relative ease with which a department can decide to monitor its purchases compared to the "rigamole and the bureaucracy" involved in implementing investment policies through university bodies.

"[Divestment] means having fund managers tell you this is shrill, this is dangerous," said Nitkin. "[A procurement-side policy] is administratively a heck of a lot easier."

But the fact remains that neither McGill students nor faculty have attempted to require the university to apply considerations of social responsibility to either its investments or its procurements.

"My hunch is that it's not that there's a lack of concern, [but] rather that there's a lack of knowledge as to what McGill actually does," said Grushcow.

"I don't anticipate that it'll stay that way."

PROTESTING WITH HAMMERS AND SAWS

PQ's proposal makes no place for social housing

BY GALEN GUTHRIE

"We've had enough, Mr. Chevette, of being on the streets and waiting for your actions." This was the message heard last Thursday by 150 people who helped renovate an abandoned 12 room apartment building on Dufresne St in Centre-Sud.

The event was organised by the Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain (Frapru), a provincial pressure group for social housing, and Comité du Logement Centre-Sud, a local tenant rights association.

The action was in direct response to the Québec government's recent decision to award \$100 million to private renovation at the expense of lower-income social housing.

This decision, announced by Municipal Affairs Minister Guy Chevette in September, allocates \$50 million to private property owners in Montréal. If they rent five or less apartments they become eligible for a \$4 500 interest-free loan over three years. The remaining \$50 million will be channelled into revitalisation of old quarters.

According to Frapru spokesman,

Francois Saillant, "neither one of these programs makes a real place for social housing."

This is especially disappointing for Frapru and other housing groups, as the Parti Québécois had promised during the election in 1994 to build 1 500 new social housing units per year in Montréal.

Also in September, Frapru decided to support the PQ in the referendum on Québec sovereignty, viewing that the federal government's policies are detrimental to social housing. Since the early eighties, the federal government has drastically cut its funding to social housing, forcing provinces, including Québec, to take more responsibility.

Denise Babin of the Comité du logement Centre-sud, commented that housing groups "voted 'oui' in the referendum because the PQ carries a social democratic stand and Chevette says social housing is a priority and yet we have seen no promise. At the moment there are a lot of disappointed people and frustrated community-groups."

With the new proposals, any commitment to social housing on the

part of the province is a big question mark.

So with paintbrush and hammers in hand, volunteers braved minus three degree weather to knock down walls, repaint railings and most importantly, according to Babin, "to break down prejudices against people on low-income. We want to show that we can work together and all that is missing now is the money to buy the building."

The location of the action was also important. Centre-sud is one of the poorest areas of the province. According to Statistics Canada 40 per cent of people earn less than \$15 000 in an area where rents have jumped from \$230 to \$470 in 15 years.

At the same time, there are more than a hundred vacant apartment buildings in the area.

According to a Frapru document, the goal of the organisation is to "see the government create 15 00 new social housing units a year. This can not be done when the government's priority appears to be private-ownership driven." The organisation hopes it can illicit a response from Chevette — even if it takes hammers and saws.



DAILY GRAPHIC BY MAX FRANCISCO



MEXICAN SOLDIERS, AMERICAN JEEPS

DAILY PHOTO BY LUCIA MASON

NO LAND, NO Witness

BY LUCIA MASON

Just an hour after a Mexican military convoy had barrelled its way through the small community of La Realidad, a group of young masked Zapatista women marched up the same road armed with a guitar. Sheltered by this wall of women were four guerrillas of the National Zapatista Liberation Army (EZLN), including Commandante Tacho, one of the chief spokespersons for the EZLN.

The Zapatistas had been invited to speak alongside the campesinos (peasants) of La Realidad at a community meeting. All were risking violent repression at the hands of the Mexican military in order to talk about the dire impoverishment and injustice which plague Mexican society, particularly in peripheral areas such as Chiapas.

Among the audience gathered at this community meeting were members of three solidarity caravans from Canada, the United States and Mexico who had come to hear the testimony of rural communities ravaged by the conflict in Chiapas.

Organised by the Mexico Solidarity Network, a grassroots organisation based in Québec and Ontario, the Canadian Caravan went to Chiapas in August, 1995 loaded with medical equipment and clothing for rural communities, as well as computers for human rights organisations.

While this was the first caravan initiative from Canada to Chiapas, the U.S. group Pastors for Peace has been sending caravans and international observers to Chiapas since March, 1995, and the Mexican Caravana Para Todos Todo has provided a steady stream of caravans since January, 1994.

Chiapas came to the forefront of international attention on January 1, 1994, when the EZLN took over a number of towns across the state, seeking to alert the world to the contradictions of Mexican society. On the one hand, Mexico was lauded as an economic success story upon its entry into the North American Free Trade Agreement. On the other hand, according to the Inter Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America, 22 per cent of the Mexican population suffer from conditions of extreme poverty.

This desperate reality is even more pronounced in Chiapas, Mexico's poorest state. According to the human rights group Americas Watch, the major cause of death is curable disease, 35 per cent of all homes lack electricity or drainage and 40 per cent of the

population receives less than a minimum wage — of which 19 per cent receive no monetary income at all.

Such deprivation is concentrated in rural and largely indigenous Chiapas.

"We indigenous campesinos suffer more than the cattle in Chiapas because at least the cattle have right to land and are able to find food," Commandante Tacho told the three international caravans at La Realidad.

"We have nothing," he added.

Struggling for land and livelihood

Tacho's statement touches upon one of the most critical issue in Chiapas: land.

In an economy based almost entirely on agriculture and natural resources, access to adequate land determines survival or destitution. Suffering from extremely unequal land distribution, the campesino majority is condemned to poverty and exploitation.

With miniscule landholdings which cannot sustain their families and with much of the land they possess infertile, as well as depreciating market value of subsistence crops such as corn and beans, 75 per cent of the agricultural population rely on wage labour in order to supplement their incomes, according to a 1989 Wasserstrom study.

Wage labour is found in large agricultural plantations, and, due to a surplus of land-hungry campesinos, pays well below minimum wage.

The situation of land-starvation and labour exploitation has been further aggravated by illegal encroachment on campesino land by more powerful landowners, such as cattle ranchers.

With the disparity between rich and poor already inflaming social tensions in Chiapas, the exploits of cattle ranchers have created an explosive situation. The land-owning elite in Chiapas has responded to campesino resistance to theft of their land with brutality. According to Americas Watch, the rural elite has funded paramilitary forces, known as the White Guards, who have been responsible for the violent eviction of entire campesino communities, as well as widespread political torture and murder of Chiapan campesinos.

Physicians for Human Rights reports

that there is an informal alliance of large landowners, cattle ranchers, lumber barons and municipal Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) government officials. The PRI is the ruling political party in Mexico. Essentially blocking any legal recourse for campesino defense of land and human rights and cementing the political and economic power of the rural elite, this alliance has been an obstacle to peaceful resolutions of land conflicts.

Conditions exacerbated by neglect

The communities the caravans visited also accused the Mexican government of contributing to the economic malaise, repression and marginalisation in Chiapas by neglect.

"We suffer tremendously. We die of illnesses, we don't have adequate

"We indigenous campesinos suffer more than the cattle in Chiapas because at least the cattle have right to land and are able to find food,"

—EZLN Commandante Tacho.

its original population of 800.

The low-

river. Villagers must carry water by foot, while a water pipe runs through their community from the river to a refinery owned by PEMEX (the national Mexican oil company).

Enrique Arennato of the Mexican Consulate in Montréal informed me that the Mexican government has, in fact, initiated 2053 projects throughout Mexico in order to improve the marginalisation of indigenous communities — many of which are in Chiapas.

Wondering about the lack of evidence for such projects, I was told that their funding is usually left in the hands of state and municipal PRI governments.

Fleeing from military presence

While Mexican government has done little for social and economic reform, the Zapatista uprising of January 1994 did attract a military presence in Chiapas 50 000 troops strong — approximately 60 per cent of the entire Mexican army.

Despite an official ceasefire with the EZLN, the Mexican military continues to wage a low-intensity war in Chiapas. This low-intensity war has taken the form of the economic embargo of entire communities, repression of grassroots organizations, and arbitrary arrest, torture and murder.

Targeting the civilian population of the Highland region of Chiapas, where many communities openly identify with EZLN demands for social and economic justice, the military presence has spelled disaster for one of the poorest areas of Mexico.

The former community of Guadalupe Tepeyac has been completely abandoned. The only remaining clues as to the lives of its previous inhabitants are scattered papers and dishes — evidence of a hasty departure. In Morelia, a town still scarred by the public torture and murder of three of its members by Mexican soldiers, only about 300 remain out of

intensity war in Chiapas created twenty thousand refugees as people fled in fear of Mexican military repression. While many refugees have returned to their homes, many others remain displaced in other areas of Chiapas and Mexico, while others are still forced to eke out an existence in infertile jungle terrain.

"The women [of La Soledad] spoke with such frustration and sadness when remembering how they fled into the mountains," explained Robin Hayes of Pastors for Peace.

"They talked about how they couldn't keep track of all the children dying from starvation and disease in the jungle."

Discussing the refugee population, Sister Patricia of the San Carlos de Altamirano Hospital explained "We have tried to reach them [to provide medical attention], but there are too many and they are scattered too far." The small hospital services the refugee population, as well as the town of Altamirano and 637 surrounding communities.

Unfortunately, the road to the hospital is patrolled on one end by a military checkpoint and on the other by a police checkpoint. Many of those most in need of medical attention are hesitant to approach the hospital, fearing harassment by security forces.

With a report from the Diocese of San Cristobal that there have been more human rights violations in the past four months than in all of 1994, and evidence that there is a military build-up in the Highlands region, the threat of harassment is very real.

Communities facing abuses

During the February 1995 offensive, when the Mexican government violated the peace treaty with the EZLN and regained control of Zapatista territory by military force, residents of Patathe hid in fear. According to Gavin Andrews of the Mexico Solidarity Network, Mexican soldiers found a group of eight unarmed civilians hiding behind bushes and shot them on the spot. On the same day, an entire family, who had sought shelter in the community church, were beaten by Mexican soldiers.

On June 4, 1995, three young Tzeltal Maya women were taken to a military base in the vicinity of Altamirano. After being separated from their mothers, they

NO SALT, NO PEACE

Assessing the devastation of Chiapas



DAILY PHOTO BY LUCIA MASON

ZAPATISTA SOLDIERS AND CAMPESINOS

were interrogated, beaten and then raped by some of the thirty Federal Army soldiers present. On October 26, Cecilia Rodriguez, a United States citizen and social activist, was accosted and raped by three armed men in the municipality of Comitán. The San Cristobal Women's Group has received reports of at least fifty rapes over the past eighteen months.

Entering communities in armed convoys on a daily basis, the psychological effect of the military presence has been economically debilitating.

Karen Rothschild of Montréal's Social Justice Committee explains. "Area residents are stopped and questioned on the road and in consequence are afraid to travel to their nearest town of Ocosingo.... The Army's presence implies a constant threat of violence, of men being brutally interrogated, of women being sexually assaulted. More distant cornfields are therefore left uncultivated; women are afraid to go out to collect fuel-wood, children must stay close to their homes."

Well aware of the disruptive effect of their presence, soldiers have intentionally intimidated civilians.

"The first thing we saw when we entered [La Soledad] was two soldiers jogging in shorts [shorts are viewed as offensive in indigenous Maya culture]. And when we began speaking to people, the women told us how a group of soldiers would go to the local school everyday armed to play basketball. Right in the middle of the children," Hayes recounted.

The information service Mexpaz reports that in Cuxulja, "Everyday, the soldiers wash their jeeps and tanks at the riverside, just five meters from where the women and children bathe themselves. Armed troops block the highway... until they've finished washing the vehicles. They often arrive by the

river with prostitutes to take a bath and drink beer."

Hunger has also been used as a tactic to break the spirit of the these communities in the low-intensity war. Repeating what community members at La Sultana had told her, Hayes noted "People had spotted that the soldiers were getting ready to completely surround the community — setting up tents and patrolling. In the process they destroyed the wood source to build a helicopter pad, and built roads through crops, destroying the food source."

In another community, campesinos recounted how Mexican soldiers had burned the corn harvest, leaving the community with nothing. When asked if they had enough to survive on, one campesino replied "We don't even have salt for our tortillas."

Taking advantage of the desperation of such rural communities, the Mexican government has adopted the role of provider. Offering food, clothing and even candies in return for political support, the federal government has successfully created divisions within and between communities. By employing a band-aid approach, the Mexican government is hoping to avoid profound social economic change in Chiapas.

Nonetheless, many communities have refused such aid, demanding political, social and economic reform rather than sweets. It is precisely such communities which are denied the benefits of government programmes and targeted for harassment.

Enrique Arennana of the Mexican Consulate assured me that, despite the heavy military presence, the federal government is seeking a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Chiapas.

In response to this often-quoted stance, an exasperated community leader at La Sultana exclaimed "The

government says it doesn't want war, that it wants peace. But we don't understand — what is this peace the government is talking about? What is peace according to them? Because the soldiers are killing us, the government is killing us..."

Crossing their legal bounds

The Mexican government justifies the heavy military presence in Chiapas by maintaining that the EZLN are a belligerent force.

Karen Rothschild points out that this explanation does not validate the military presence among, and harassment of, the civilian population. According to Article 129 of the Mexican Constitution, the Mexican military cannot interfere in civilian affairs during times of peace. With a peace treaty between the EZLN and the Mexican government in effect, this means that the military presence in Chiapan communities is illegal.

When asked if they had enough to survive on, one campesino replied "We don't even have salt for our tortillas."

Not only has the military been crossing its legal bounds, it has also disregarded the division between the role of the military and that of municipal security forces.

Sister Patricia of the San Carlos de Altamirano hospital reported how the military and municipal police frequently blur their roles. "People are frightened of both the soldiers and police..."

Because sometimes the same people who wear blue uniforms who are police people, can also be seen to wear the green uniforms and go as soldiers. They are the same people."

While the Mexican government is slow in embracing true social and economic reform which will address the roots of the January 1994 uprising, they are devising new methods of repression, for example by legally combining all policing forces in order to confront social unrest. Presently, a bill is presently being discussed in the Mexican parliament in which the military and public security forces, such as municipal police and paramilitary groups, will be merged at a national level.

According to Karen Rothschild "The presence of military and navy is incomprehensible unless there is the intention of militarizing political activity."

Solidarity for change...

Despite the climate of desperation and repression in Chiapas, there has been a strong tradition of grassroots campesino organizing.

With campesino organisations such as the Independent Confederation of Agricultural Workers and Peasants and the Emiliano Zapata Peasant Organization enjoying vast support throughout Chiapas, this grassroots movement has defended land rights and pushed demands for democracy and economic justice to the forefront of the government agenda.

According to the Co-ordination of Non-Governmental Organizations for Peace, over 2 000 ranches and plantations have been taken over by such campesino groups in their struggle for fair land distribution.

More importantly, many of these organisations have united under a common banner, the Democratic State Assembly of the Chiapan People, in order to present a common front in negotiations with the government.

The increasing mobilisation of the grassroots movement in Chiapas has opened a political space for public dissent against Mexican government policies. Helping to create this space has been international solidarity.

International solidarity groups can deter military and paramilitary repression against civilians and grassroots

organizations. With a heavy international presence in Chiapas and strong ties between Chiapan and international grassroots organisations, human rights abuses and violations of the peace treaty are immediately detected by the international community. Wary of the power of bad foreign press coverage and international solidarity mobilization, the Mexican government has tried to maintain an image of peace and reconciliation in Chiapas.

"The national and international presence protects the indigenous communities," according to Robin Hayes. "It's a signal that the world is watching. And if we see bad stuff, human rights abuses, harassment by the military, then the Mexican government is criticized internationally. So the more of us there are running around visiting communities, the less will happen to the campesinos there."

Realising the value of an international presence in the conflict zones of Chiapas, Chiapan human rights organisations and rural communities have established peace camps. Living with those communities most targeted by military harassment, these camps allow internationals to monitor human rights abuses and serve as a buffer between soldiers and civilians.

In explaining the effect international solidarity has had on his community, one campesino of La Sultana said "We thank-you for arriving to see our suffering, so that when you go back you can tell people how it really is. Because... what other forms can we use to pressure the government?... We are all human beings... And that is why we ask why do we suffer the way we do? Because we want this problem to be resolved, we want to see justice and peace exist in our country and in our communities."

With all the benefits of the watchdog presence of the international community, true peace will be realised only in achieving the demands for social and economic reform put forth by the communities and grassroots organizations of Chiapas. As such, the path to resolving the current crisis in Chiapas lies in the ability of its citizens to effect change.

For more information on how to participate in the peace camps, as well as general information on the current situation in Mexico, call the Mexico Solidarity Network at 848-7410.

For information on Pastors for Peace human rights delegations, call 612-870-7121.

Where the money comes from

Professors pull in money, but less than last year

BY LAURA GOLD

McGill professors are in a continual battle to secure funds for their research. The process of receiving grants and contracts at McGill is a competitive one, as the university expects its professors to bring in money in order to conduct research.

Romuald Knystautas, the associate chair of McGill's Department of Mechanical Engineering, recently received the R.I. Soloukhin Award for Outstanding Research on Detonation Phenomena. More specifically, Prof. Knystautas studies "the interactions of chemical reactions." Knystautas' affinity for the field arose from personal interest: He explains simply, "it's the stuff I like to do." Both undergraduate and graduate students work with Knystautas, assisting him in his research.

Knystautas concedes that the pressure on professors to bring in grants is not as great here as it is in the United States. However, he does believe that there is a definite expectation that professors are "supposed to excel in

[both] teaching and research."

Professor Zucker, of the department of Electrical Engineering, is working on a contract for the U.S. Air Force in the field of computational neuroscience. The aim of the research is to be able to build a model of the primary visual cortex (the area responsible for vision) in the primate brain and to understand how this area of the brain determines the outline of objects. Like Knystautas, Zucker is assisted in his research by graduate students.

Although his work is funded by the U.S. Defense Department, Zucker claims that the results of his research have "no application to a military agenda." In his opinion, the funding is motivated by a purely scientific desire for knowledge.

For Zucker, any pressure to bring in grants is internally driven. He is a member of a research group "with a serious agenda." Their aim is to "be at the world class level."

These are two examples of the way in which granted or contracted money

is used at McGill. All opportunities for grants are channeled through the Research Grants Office. There is open competition among all applicable professors or departments. Whoever wishes to apply for the grant is free to do so, and the granting agency determines who will receive the money.

In order to facilitate the professors' pursuit of grants, the RGO tentatively subscribed to a worldwide database for grant information earlier this month. If implemented, the database will give professors access to grants with international eligibility.

Money from grants is used for a variety of expenses, including traveling and equipment costs, as well as the payment students to assist in research. In the 1994/95 school year, McGill and its affiliated agencies received \$135.6 million in grants alone. Including contracts and fellowships, the amount exceeds \$181 million. The average grant size of the 3-113 grants awarded last year was \$43 559. However, the number

of grants has steadily decreased over the last three years.

According to Janine Vasseur, director of the RGO, professors have to work that much harder now because money is becoming scarcer. Vasseur said it may be detrimental to a professor's career not to earn grants.

In order to ensure that the sponsored research is ethical, professors must not only comply with the granting agency's guidelines but the RGO's as well. The researcher must fill out an application checklist and then have it signed by the director of the RGO and the head of the relevant department or faculty.

The questions deal with the subject of the professor's research. One question asks whether human subjects or experimental animals are being used. The moral decision is essentially jointly made by the director of the RGO and the department or faculty head.

Contracts are another means for professors to secure funding for their

research. At McGill, these are handled by the Office of Technology Transfer, which negotiates a professor's agreement with the contractor. In order to establish a contract, professors can solicit the company directly or use their contacts to receive money.

Contracts must be accepted by the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors. Students' Society President Helena Myers has a seat on the committee.

"[The proposals] are generally detailed, and generally the requests have already been through a number of committees," explains Myers, adding that the Air Force contract she had seen "was nothing controversial."

McGill's Research Policies and Procedures booklet includes the university's policy on research ethics, a brief document which includes considerations of misuse of research funds, duties concerning human and animal subjects, and the duty to acknowledge sources of funding.

LOOKING FOR A DENTAL PLAN

Faculty of dentistry proposes new plan

BY ROBERTA LAUCKE

If all goes according to plans, McGill students may soon benefit from cheaper dental care.

On October 1, Students' Society President Helena Myers and VP Finance Kelly Remail met with the Associate and Assistant Dean in the faculty of dentistry to hear their proposal on a student dental health plan.

The proposal, still in its initial stages, would open up a new dental clinic on campus, making the cost of dental work cheaper.

Since dental expenses reach such high levels, a main goal of the proposal would be to cheapen the cost of dental care for students. "The principle behind the plan would be to take something that costs a lot of money and find a way for students to be insured for dental cost," said Remail.

"What we are proposing with the student council is a plan which provides the student population on campus with a dental plan run on a capital basis," stated Doctor Katz, the associate dean of the Faculty of Dentistry.

"This means students would enter the plan for a specific fee and regardless of how much work you need done, a little or a lot, x-rays, root canal, and other components, their would be no additional cost...fees would be significantly lower than in the private

sector. The cost involved would be only enough to cover our basic expenses," he said.

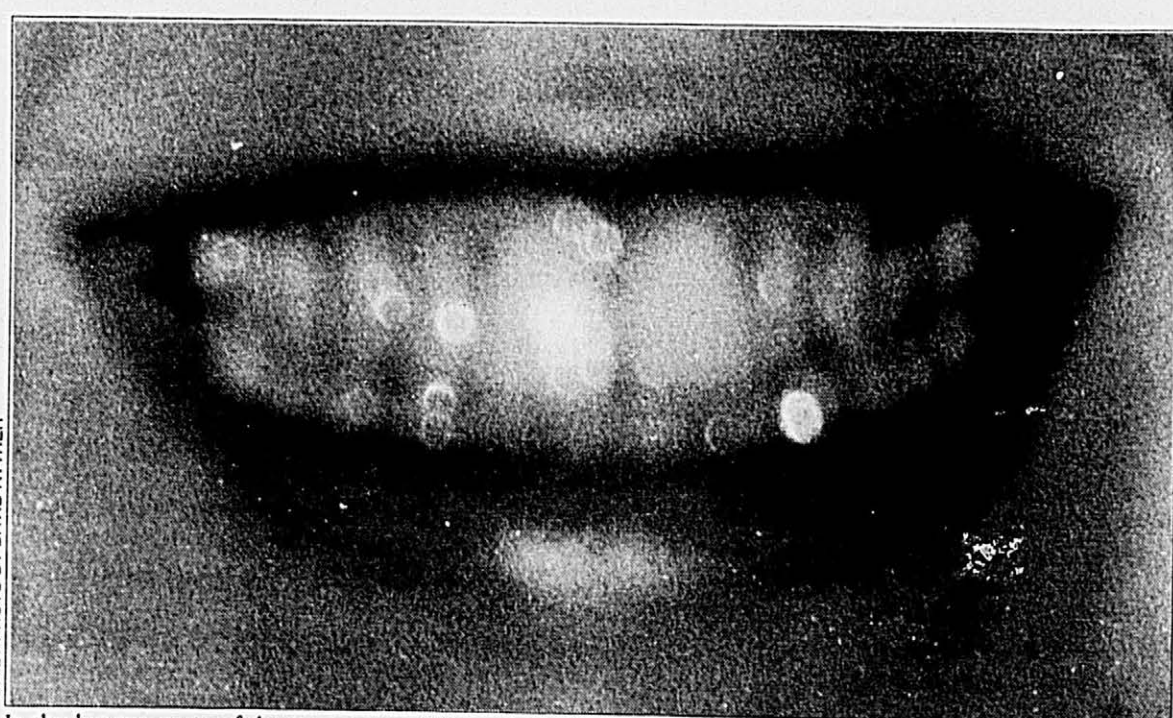
With the proposed new clinic, going to the dentist would also be made more accessible. "Our goal is to make McGill one big community. McGill has legal aid, it has the [sexual] assault center. We want to participate actively and help out... It is a marriage of need and help," said Katz.

McGill's dental care clinic would be open more hours than a private sector dental clinic. This would give students more flexibility to fit going to the dentist into their busy schedule.

"The plan is convenient. We will have expanded clinic hours during the day and clinic hours in the evening. If the demand is there, we will open on the weekends," said Katz.

Myers agreed that many benefits will come out of this plan. "The plan is to provide clinical care for students on a daily and nightly basis and to give care at cost. The plan includes an opt-in basis. It is a plan that is affordable and accessible to all fellow students on campus."

The program would also be beneficial to students in the Faculty of Dentistry program. In the dental undergraduate program students are required in their first two years to take basic sciences and pre-clinical courses.



DAILY PHOTO BY DAVID RYHER

In the last two years of the program students are introduced to patients. The plan would enable the students to perform what they have learned on the patients.

In this way, the faculty could utilise their facilities and at the same time students would receive hands-on experience. "The quality of care given to McGill patients would be extraordinarily high. I understand students worries of going to someone who is not even a dentist but students

will be supervised by the best people we know," stated Doctor Miller, Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry.

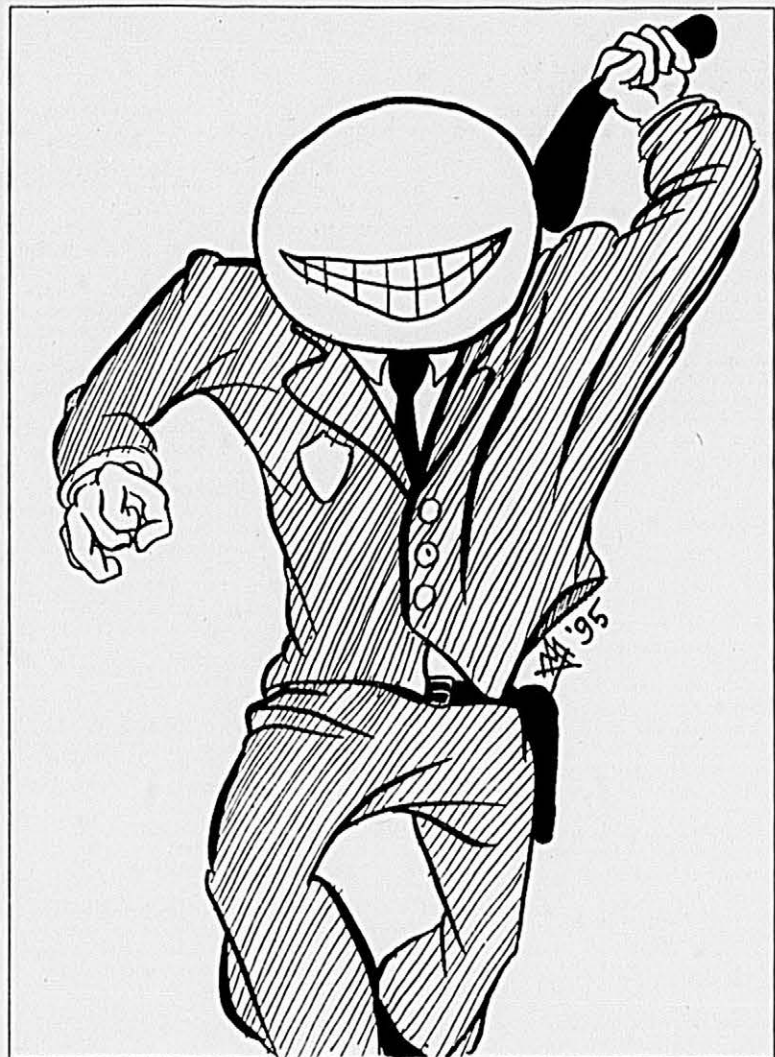
The location of the new clinic is still up in the air. The Faculty of Dentistry hopes to get the project off the ground by January, 1996. Right now, McGill students can have their teeth checked at two locations—either at the Montréal General hospital or in the Strathcona Anatomy building.

However, before any decisions on the dental plan can take place, Remail

has chosen to look for the best package deal available for the students.

"We were approached by the Faculty of Dentistry and attended a meeting... we also received a package from Superior Benefits, another company proposal which we looked over. We don't know exactly what each is offering. We are looking for the best dental plan. One that is at cost, offers a wide range of services. Hopefully, before the end of the term we can come up with something," Remail said.

Much ado about nothing



DAILY GRAPHIC BY MAX FRANCISCO

BY ANUP GREWAL

For at least the past four years, the Montréal community and those in charge of police services have been looking to change a system riddled with difficulties. In the past year, three people — all from ethnic minorities — have either been killed or injured by police officers under questionable circumstances.

Accusations of racism and police brutality have come from all directions, including the community at large and the heads of various inquiries being held to look into the system.

Right now, the Montréal Urban Community Police department (MUCPD) is not trusted by many Montrealers as a force of protection. In an attempt to move toward better relations with the public, Chief of Police Jacques Duchesneau proposed a restructuring plan earlier this year. The plan is called *Towards Community Policing*.

Duchesneau explained, "since my appointment as the head of the [MUCPD], I have wanted important changes in view of adjusting our way of meeting the expectations of the public."

The plan, which was made public in October after a series of public consultations, will be approved by an executive committee of the Montréal Urban Community city council on November 29.

The plan proposes a decentralisation of the police system. Instead of the 23 existing stations, by 1998 there will be 49 smaller ones, referred to as neighborhood stations. These are to be administered by four 'Operational Centres.'

The current nine levels of administration will be reduced to five, giving more responsibility to the

operational centres and to individual stations.

Norman Couillard of the MUCPD public relations centre hailed the move to decentralise as an opportunity to have "more people at functional levels and less at the supervisory level."

He explained the basic point of the 49 stations will be to "have more officers working with people in the community." In this light, the stations "could be in a shopping centre or a store," continued Couillard — "they will be more [like] points of service rather than big stations."

In addition, according to Couillard, the new neighborhood stations will employ "one or two civilians."

The number of police officers will also increase from the current 1 938 to 2 010, despite a hiring freeze in 1996

"Community policing is not just a structure but a mentality and a culture."
— Sam Boskey, city councilor

and budget cuts of 1.4 per-cent, approved by MUC council last week.

In effect, Couillard asserted, the plan, "would make the police more omnipresent — there is no doubt about that."

Under the proposal, each community will also have consultation boards, with citizens represented as well as police.

Superficial reforms

Duchesneau patted himself on the back at a press conference on October 3, saying "This model allows us to give the

best services to the population — of this I am profoundly convinced." But many community members are criticising the changes for being superficial.

During the consultation process in October, over 15 groups presented briefs to the executive committee outlining their concerns.

Sam Boskey, an opposition councilor at the MUC council, described the idea of community policing outlined by Duchesneau as "weak."

Boskey said he is "skeptical" of the reforms, because "just dividing up the system into smaller police stations doesn't mean you have community policing."

Community policing, said Boskey "is not just a structure but a mentality and a culture."

Pointing to the vague outline of the plan and the fact that the union of police officers, the Police Brotherhood, does not support it, Boskey said he is not sure the changes will be effective.

Dan Phillips of the Black Coalition of Montréal is also skeptical. He dismissed the idea that Duchesneau's plan will improve community-police relations. "I don't think these reforms have anything to do with community groups. It is just a question of increasing the number of police stations."

"What is needed," added Phillips, "is a change in attitude, education, respect, and training — these are the things that will better the relationship [between the community and the police]."

The Black Coalition has acted with other groups over the past few months in organising demonstrations to expose police brutality and the lack of accountability for officers who abuse their power. It has worked especially on the cases of Anthony Griffin, Martin Suazo, Phillip Ferraro, and Paulo Romenelli.

According to Phillips, aside from these public demonstrations, there have been many proposals made to the MUCPD on how to reform in the past few years.

But Phillips observes that "none of these [reports] are being implemented."

The most recent of these came in

March 1994, after an inquiry done by judge Albert Malouf.

Malouf reported that, "it is urgent that an enlightened public debate is held on the structure... of the police system."

Pointing to many "divisions" and "tensions" within the MUCPD, Malouf recommended a series of changes.

Phillips summarised the report's recommendations: They include a decrease in Police Brotherhood's power, which currently "supersedes" the power of the administration, and a mandate for

"This model allows us to give the best services to the population — of this I am profoundly convinced."

— Jacques Duchesneau, Chief of Police

an independent inquiry any time there is an injury or a death of a citizen due to police action. In addition, the report recognises that the police system is currently out of control because supervisors often do not know the whereabouts of their inspectors, and that relations with ethnic communities need to be improved.

The last issue is a major consideration of the report. Malouf insisted that a 1985 commitment made by former police chief Alain Saint-Germain to improve community relations, has not been effectively implemented.

Saint-Germain tried to put in place programmes to sensitise police officers to cultural communities and eliminate discrimination towards ethnic minorities.

However, according to Malouf, "unacceptable behaviour" in the MUCPD still exists.

Malouf concluded that "the future [of the MUCPD] is in consultation, in community research into finding a solution. And Community policing must be a logical response to this... public initiative." He wrote that all communities must have consultative bodies.

Defining community policing

Eigen Scotland of the NDG Black Community Council pointed to the work his centre has been doing with police in NDG. "We have a police liaison and are working at a positive relationship on both sides," he said.

Scotland, who attended a conference on community policing in Florida in 1992, is "glad" to see the steps taken by Duchesneau. He recognises that "community policing is the way of the future," but that he feels it needs to be more comprehensive than the current proposal.

In the future, Scotland said, he hopes to see police officers living in the communities they police. According to Scotland "many police officers in Montréal only see ethnic minorities in movies and so have a prejudiced view of them." With police officers who are residents of the district they police, "officers can get a more rounded view of ethnic communities," he said.

That, said Scotland, "is the true meaning of community policing."

However, the reforms proposed by Duchesneau continue to be viewed by many as problematic, as they have not adequately addressed the many recommendations made over the years to the MUCPD.

At the same time, budget cuts in the MUC are occurring, setting a limit on the new services the police can offer. Because of this, Phillips said, "They [the MUCPD] have to look at where the money is being spent and to divert the resources where they are most needed."

According to Phillips, Justice Malouf's report showed that "if fundamental reform does not occur [in the MUCPD], the mistakes of the past will keep repeating themselves."

The names Richard Barnabé, Anthony Griffin, Martin Suazo, Phillip Ferraro, and Paulo Romenelli make this finding evident.

For Phillips, there needs to be a "deep and profound" reform. He reiterates his difficulty with the current proposals, saying, "while the reports [of the last few years] sit on some shelf, collecting dust, he [Duchesneau] comes up with this community policing. This doesn't do anything for us."

THE OMBUDSPERSON FOR STUDENTS

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT TO SENATE

FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 1994 TO AUGUST 31, 1995

Submitted by Estelle Hopmeyer, McGill University Ombudsperson for Students

Eighth Annual Report of the McGill Ombudsperson for Students
September 1, 1994 - August 31, 1995

I am pleased to present the Eighth Annual Report of the McGill University Ombudsperson for students for the reporting period September 1, 1994 to August 1, 1995, in accordance with the terms of reference of the office as approved by the Senate and the Board of Governors (copy attached). This is my second report to Senate as I have occupied this half time position since September 1, 1993.

As previewed in last years report, the Ombuds Office moved to the Burnside Building in mid October. The Office is on the main floor assuring easy access for all students. The Equity Office which shared this space moved out in July and the Office for Students with Disabilities moved into the vacated space in August. We are confident that the new arrangement will be a permanent one!

The Mandate

The Mandate of the Ombudsperson for Students is the impartial investigation of complaints by McGill students who feel their rights have not been respected by some member of the McGill Community. The process begins with a telephone call or a visit by the Student to the Ombudsperson's office. As Ombudsperson I listen to the student and validate their concern. Then there are many alternative interventions. After discussion, the student may feel ready to intervene on his/her own behalf with their Professor or other University Official. I may refer them to the appropriate University Official or to the Legal Information Clinic. In certain instances, with the student's permission, I will investigate the complaint and if warranted intervene on his/her behalf.

As stated in last year's report, one of the primary goals of the University in supporting the position of the Ombudsperson for students is to try to resolve student problems/complaints through informal means such as discussion, negotiation or mediation rather than resorting to the more formal grievance or discipline procedures. While this has been possible in most cases, there are a percentage, particularly in the Graduate Faculty, that do require formal resolution.

The ability to resolve cases informally is due to the strong support I have received from all members of the McGill community: faculty, staff, Associate Deans, Deans and Associate Vice Principals. Telephone calls are promptly returned - often from home - and time is given to hear and understand the issues. Every effort is made to come to a reasonable and fair decision. The neutrality of the office is understood and respected by all. If cases are going to require advocacy, I refer them to the Legal Information Clinic at McGill. The student lawyers are an extraordinary resource for our students. A number of the most complex cases this year have resulted in close collaboration between the Ombuds Office, Legal Information and/or the Vice President University Affairs of the Students Society.

The Ombuds Office played a role this year in the Independent Committee on Inquiry On Research Policies and Practices in the department of Civil Engineering. Students who did not want to meet the Committee of Inquiry but wished to bring concerns could do so through the Ombudsperson who attended the inquiry on their behalf. Several students did take advantage of this opportunity.

Discussion of Cases

Statistics

The Ombuds Office recorded 263 cases this year. The statistical summary and tables which follow provide detailed information concerning the cases (tables 1-4) and the work of the Ombudsperson (tables 5 and 6). Trevor Garland of Information Systems Resources developed a new programme which has permitted this more detailed

Program	Admissions	Complaints	Info/Referral	Total
Admissions	3			3
Cont. Ed.	1	20	2	23
Diploma	2			2
Masters		19	4	23
PhD		29	4	33
Post Graduate		1	2	3
Post-Doctorate	1			1
Qualifying		6	2	8
Special Status		1		1
Staff		4		4
Undergrad	7	111	36	144
Visiting	2	3		5
Visiting/Special	2		2	4
Other	4	2	4	10
TOTAL	17	199	47	263

Program	Female	Male	Total
Admissions	2	1	3
Cont. Ed.	12	11	23
Diploma	1	1	2
Masters	16	7	23
PhD	18	15	33
Post Graduate	1	2	3
Post-Doctorate	1		1
Qualifying	7	1	8
Special Status	1		1
Staff	6	1	7
Undergrad	87	53	140
Visiting	2	3	5
Visiting/Special	2	2	4
Other	3	7	10
TOTAL	157	106	263

reporting of the data.

In analyzing Tables 1 and 2 the following points should be noted. There appears to be a disproportionately large number of graduate students who use the Ombudsperson. This will be discussed later in the report. The low number of admissions cases reflect the fact that my mandate does not include admissions as that office has its own review

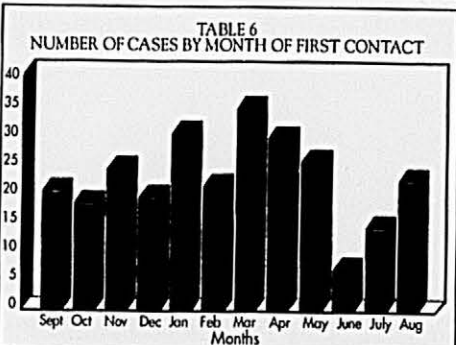
Problem Type	Admissions	Complaints	Info/Referral	Total
Admissions	4			4
Architecture		1		1
Arts		68	13	81
Cont. Ed.	1	18	2	21
Dentistry		12		12
Education	3		4	7
Engineering		22	3	25
Food Science		3		3
Grad Studies		4	3	7
Law	1	1		2
Lib & Info Stud.		1		1
Management		7	1	8
Medicine	2	7	5	14
Music		4	2	6
Nutrition		1		1
Parasitology		2		2
Plant Science		1		1
Relig. Studies			1	1
Science	5	36	8	49
Staff		4	3	7
Other	1	3	2	6
TOTAL	17	199	47	263

Case Category	Count
Academic	146
Academic Misconduct	12
Admissions	19
Appeals	1
Counselling	1
Exams	1
Fees	3
Financial Aid	7
Harassment	20
Health Services	1
Libraries	8
McGill Housing	3
Non-Academic Misconduct	16
Registration and Loans	9
Security and Safety	1
Other	5
TOTAL	263

and appeal procedures. I do, however, facilitate access to the Admissions Office. The low number of continuing education cases suggests that these students may not be aware that they can consult the Ombudsperson. This will be an area of outreach this year.

The number of cases this year has reverted back to the average of previous years 1992-94. I attribute this to better reporting than in the previous year - my first. The data on Ombudsperson involvement indicates the number of interventions taken on a case: single (113) or multiple (126) as well as the action taken: phone, meeting, information, referral, etc. It also indicates the number of students served by telephone (107), visit (150) fax or letter (6). What I found interesting was the monthly statistics. I had an average intake of 4-5 new cases a week until the spring when I was inundated with new difficult cases. The summer reverted back to a more regular pattern. (June reflected attendance at two conferences). It will be interesting to compare these figures in future years. It must be

Problem Type	Inform	Letter	Meeting	Phone	Referred	Total
Admissions	2		1	11	3	17
Complaints	15	4	26	79	58	199
Info Referral			2	10	19	46
Other				1	1	2
TOTAL	49	4	29	100	81	263



noted that "m" - multiple can mean several intervention or extensive work of up to 50 contacts or interventions over a period of many months - often at night or on the weekend, while "s" - single can be a 15 minute phone call or meeting not requiring my intervention.

Discussion of Issues

The Annual Report is the opportunity to raise issues that have been identified in the years work. There are several that I believe merit attention.

Graduate Students

Graduate student cases remain one of the most complex areas of my work. Last year I discussed some issues including, intellectual property, harassment, requests to withdraw, etc. This year I would like to focus on the issue of admission criteria including background preparation for PhD study. This problem and other equally serious issues is reflected in the 33 PhD cases which I dealt with this year. There have been a number of cases often International students, where after two years of study they have been told that they do not have the potential for PhD level work. This may be prior to or after the comprehensive exams and before or after a change of advisor. I certainly support academic standards but note that different departments have different approaches, i.e. some require qualifying courses prior to admission to Doctoral study while others place students in a laboratory environment where they are expected to function independently in the preparation of a thesis proposal. If students do not have adequate course preparation (i.e. micro-biology) or a tradition of independent work, they may have difficulty. Our "student centredness" which leads us to give students a second chance, extends the period of scholarship funding or financial expense on the part of the student, but may not

make them more able to perform at the expected level. There may be some merit to reviewing admission criteria, consideration of qualifying courses etc. for some students so that they can reasonably expect success in their graduate studies. The new direction that is being taken by the McGill C.A. program provides a model for this review.

Religious Holy Days

At present McGill does not have a written policy or statement in its academic calendars concerning religious holy days. This year the first day of classes fell on the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashana and the final exam period included the Jewish Passover holiday. I understand that the Vice Principal Academic drafted a directive to the Faculty concerning the beginning of term and that the Faculty of Arts did accommodate exams. I strongly recommend that McGill develop a policy and procedure concerning religious holy days and include it in its academic calendars. Concordia's draft policy is an excellent model for us to consider.

Faculty Responsibilities

Faculty responsibilities and student rights are clearly spelled out in the Green Book. Many students visit the Ombuds Office because they believe that their rights are not being respected by the Faculty. For example, course outlines are not provided as required, course requirements or grading formulas are changed well into the course, "participation" marks when given (from 10%-40% of total grade) are seen as arbitrary, Faculty are not available for consultation, papers/assignments are misplaced/lost, marks are not submitted on time, etc.

Students have also been very concerned by sexist or racist comments made by Faculty in their classroom. This is particularly stressful when the remarks are personal. Students are without power in these situations and often choose to withdraw from these courses well into the term.

It is evident that Faculty should be aware of the rules that spell out our responsibility to students in the same way that students must meet their responsibilities. Harassment of any kind is unacceptable.

Difficult Cases

The most difficult cases that I worked on this year were: assault cases, case involving 'troubled student', a post-doctorate case and cases involving graduate or qualifying students. Assault cases by the very nature of the problem require very sensitive intervention. Two of the cases this year created a unique situation for the Legal Information Clinic because they represented both sides of the case. As a "neutral" intervener, I was able to be available to both parties, though cases where I am involved with parties does require special care.

When working with 'troubled' students I rely very heavily on my social work skills. It would be important to try to intervene early on in these cases in the best interest of the student, and the Faculty or University official involved. A "crisis" team would be an excellent idea to implement for McGill to respond to these special cases.

I had the opportunity to work closely with Associate Vice-Principal Robaire on a case this year concerning a Post-Doctorate. In the absence of an Ombudsperson for staff I worked "outside of my mandate" to help successfully resolve the problem. This particular case was one that required the highest number of contacts and interventions on my part.

The discussion of qualifying students related in part my earlier observations concerning graduate students. I have noted a pattern of "failures" in several qualifying programmes at McGill. These departments must review admission criteria, programme requirements and structure, as there appears to be systemic problems that have serious implications for students.

Ombudsperson for Staff and Faculty

The Joint Committee on Equity has reviewed a proposal concerning the appointment of an Ombudsperson for staff and faculty. Once again this year I have been approached by a number of Faculty and staff concerning workplace issues. I have listened and have tried to initiate strategies to assist them in problem solving. An issue for consideration is whether there should be one Ombudsperson for students and another for Faculty and staff. My colleagues at Concordia share both mandates as they are concerned that serving only one constituency would identify them as advocates. However, the advantage of a divided mandate is that the Ombudsperson can develop specialized knowledge and expertise. Since McGill has only one half-time Ombudsperson, I would suggest the naming of another Ombudsperson who would deal with staff and faculty. This would allow for consultation and cooperation and reduce the present isolation of the Ombudsperson.

Evaluation of the Ombuds Office

An evaluation form has been drafted that will be given to all students who visit the Office. The form will be made available in several strategic locations for these students who consult by telephone. The completed forms are to be returned to Heather Smith-Watkins of the Vice Principal Academics office. The evaluation comments will be used to increase the effectiveness of the Office. The results of this evaluation will be summarized in next year's report.

Conclusion

The Ombuds position is one of considerable responsibility. McGill is a very large institution and some students do need help in the process of achieving their educational or personal life goals. It is a privilege to work with these students and my colleagues in the McGill community to ensure that academic freedom and academic standards are maintained in an environment that is respectful of all of its members.

Acknowledgements

An important part of this report is to recognize the people who have been of special help to me this year.

- Jackie Fee-Owen and my former Equity office mates
- Honora Shaughnessy and Bev Evoy
- Annette Werk, former Ombudsperson
- Vice Principal Academic Bill Chan
- Associate Vice Principals Graduate Studies, Lydia White and Bernard Robaire
- Former Dean of Students and Associate Dean of Students, Irwin Gopnik and Lynn Butler-Kisber
- Associate Deans of Arts, Science, Music, Education and McDonald College
- Nicole Domingue and Sarah Westphal, Ian Butler and Nick de Takacsy, Kenneth Woodman, John Gradwell, Deborah Buzzard
- Charlotte Legare, Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Elaine Sequeira, Chartered Accountancy and Grad Admin Studies
- Robin Eley, Director, Department of Career and Management Studies
- Mariela Johansen, Director of Admissions
- Jennifer Coutlee, Secretary to the Dean of Education
- Laurence Hansen, Bruno Guillot-Hurtubise, David Levy and Jody Berkes, Legal Information Clinic
- Jen Small and Lisa Grushcow, VP University Affairs, SSMU
- Students who consulted the office and shared their concerns and wisdom.

This list is a long one, however it is an indication of the level of involvement required for problem solving as the Ombudsperson is an advocate for equity within the system, but not an advocate for an individual.

Ombudsperson for Students

Terms of Reference

The role of the OMBUDSPERSON FOR STUDENTS is to receive complaints from the students and to try to resolve those complaints through informal negotiations with a view to avoid the more formal grievance procedures already existing at the University.

Appointment

The OMBUDSPERSON is appointed by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of a joint Senate/Board Committee, one-quarter of whose members are students.

Working Conditions

The OMBUDSPERSON is appointed for a term of five years.

The OMBUDSPERSON is a member of the McGill Faculty respected by staff and students. The half time Ombudsperson's appointment is subject to a fixed formula for merit increases equivalent to 50% of the University's average academic merit, unless the academic half appointment is higher. Where the academic half is higher, the Ombudsperson's half appointment merit component will follow.

Office Facilities

The Ombudsperson is provided with a separate Office, appropriate secretarial support and on-going answering phone facilities.

Functions

The OMBUDSPERSON is an impartial arbitrator, as free as possible from conflicts of interest.

The OMBUDSPERSON investigates, at the request of any member of the student body, any complaint that may arise between that student and the University or anyone in the University exercising authority.

The OMBUDSPERSON brings his or her findings and recommendations to the attention of those in authority by the most expeditious means possible.

The OMBUDSPERSON investigates any apparent inadequacies in existing University procedures which may jeopardize the rights and liberties of any members of the University community.

The OMBUDSPERSON formulates recommendations which are not to be construed as formal policy.

The OMBUDSPERSON, if requested by both parties, mediates disputes between parties.

Confidentiality

The OMBUDSPERSON treats all complaints in a confidential manner where appropriate, with the upmost care and respect for the individuals concerned.

The OMBUDSPERSON has access in accordance with law to all official files and information as are required to fulfill his or her functions.

Scope

Inquires made by the OMBUDSPERSON to members of the University receive respectful attention and are treated with reasonable promptness.

The OMBUDSPERSON does not make University policy or replace proper legal channels; he or she acts solely in an advisory and intermediary role.

The OMBUDSPERSON exercises no powers that are beyond the legal scope of the University. He or she can only make recommendations regarding actions or policy within the scope of the University.

Annual Report

The OMBUDSPERSON provides a written report of the activities and decisions of his or her office annually to the Senate.

The annual report indicates the progress of the OMBUDSPERSON's office and indicates any recommendations for improvement.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. **McGill Students & Staff** (with valid ID): \$4.55 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.00 per day. **General Public**: \$5.70 per day, or \$4.85 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, and prices do not include applicable GST (7%) or PST (6.5%). Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. **PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER.** The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will reappear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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Sexual harassment and assault are prohibited under the McGill University Code of Student Conduct
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Wednesday & Friday - 9:00-10:30 - Room 408, Currie Gym Bldg.
This course examines the role of carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins, minerals and water in a balanced diet. Students will be introduced to the effects of nutrition on exercise, sport performance and wellness. The concept of wellness from an active living and stress reduction perspective will also be discussed.

434-502Y.61: Selected Issues: Sport medicine for Physical Activity Specialists

Wednesdays - 17:00-20:00 - Room 152, Currie Gym Bldg.
Are you interested in understanding the healing process of common sport injuries? A new course is being offered that focuses on these issues. Aimed at physical educators, coaches, trainers, and taught by sport medicine physicians, the course will review recent scientific developments in the rapidly growing field of sports medicine.

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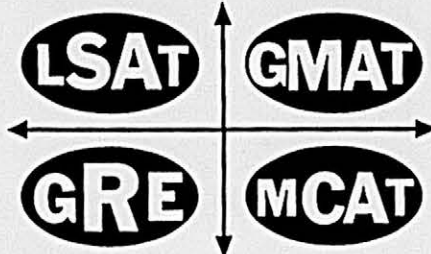
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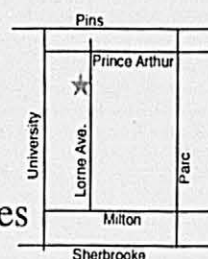
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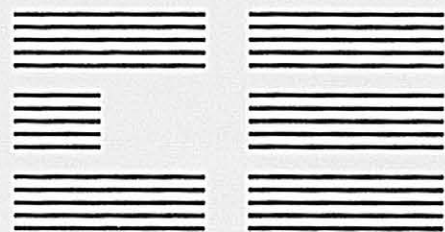
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